

Andrew Jackson to Lewis Cass, October 29, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR (LEWIS CASS).¹

¹ Cass entered upon duty as Secretary of War Aug. 8, 1831, and served until Oct. 4, 1836, when he resigned to become minister to France.

Washington, October 29, 1832.

Confidential

The Secretary at War will forthwith cause secrete and confidential orders to be Issued to the officers commanding the Forts in the harbour of charleston So Carolina to be vigilant to prevent a surprise in the night or by day, against any attempt to seize and occupy the Fts. by any Set of people under whatever pretext the Forts may be approached. Warn them that the attempt will be made, and the officers commanding will be responsible for the defence of the Forts and garrisons, against all intrigue or assault, and they are to defend them to the last extremity—permitting no armed force to approach either by night or day. *The attempt will be made to surprise the Forts and garrisons* by the militia, and must be guarded against with *vestal vigilance* and any attempt by force repelled with prompt and exemplary punishment.